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## House Republicans Force Vote to Cut Wasteful Spending

### *Democrats Block Elimination of Federal Pay Raise While Middle Class Families Endure 10 Percent Unemployment*

Washington, D.C. – Today, **Congressman Bill Shuster** joined his Republican colleagues in pushing for the elimination of pay raises for non-uniformed civilian federal employees; a move that would save taxpayers \$2 billion next year.

The proposal was blocked by all but eighteen congressional Democrats who moved to table the motion and deny it ten minutes of debate and a full vote in the House.

What makes this Republican proposal unique is that it was brought to the House Floor after over half a million Americans voted for its consideration on the [YouCut](#) website. YouCut is a House Republican initiative that allows the American people to vote via the web or text message on spending cuts proposed by House Republicans. The winning initiatives are then brought to the House for a vote by Republican leaders.

“I think this week’s YouCut proposal is right on the mark in terms of public discontent with the growth of government,” **Shuster** said. “Throughout the recession, more jobs have been created in government than in the private sector and government pay has far outpaced private sector salaries. With private sector unemployment still hovering at 10 percent, this is simply unacceptable.”

According to the Congressional Research Service, since 2007, federal civilian wages have increased by 9.7% while overall average wages have only increased by 6.7%, which

means federal employees have received pay raises over 40% bigger than the increase in average wages. In addition, while many private employers have slashed benefits to stay competitive in a tight market, public sector employees have seen their benefits go up. In 2008 for example, on average government employees received on average \$60,000 more in pay and benefits than their private sector counterparts.

“Today’s vote would have eliminated a 1.4 percent pay raise for government employees proposed by President Obama, but House Democrats blocked it right out of the gate,” **Shuster** said. “Congress’ focus should be on creating jobs in the 9th district of Pennsylvania, not Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington. This should have come to a full vote.”